

SYNCHRONOUS COLLABORATIVE SHELL INTEGRATED INSTANT
MESSAGING

Margaret McCormack

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A collaborative shell program links the capabilities of a command line interface (CLI) shell program on a user computer system to the collaborative 10 capabilities of an instant messaging system on an IM server computer system over a network. The collaborative shell program permits one or more users to issue commands to one or more target computer systems through a chat window by preceding the command 15 with a predefined command character. Users can intermix commands (delimited by the predefined command character) with standard chat text. Any authorized participant in the chat can issue commands to a target computer system from a chat window and the response is 20 relayed to all the participants.